

REMARKS:

The foregoing amendment and remarks which follow are responsive to the final Office Action mailed January 28, 2003.

Claims 10 and 11 are pending in the application. The Office Action rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Craig (U.S. Patent No. 2,511,329). Specifically, the Office Action referred to Figures 3 and 5-8 and at least col. 3, lines 43-63 of the cited reference.

Claim 10 requires "a clear uninterrupted adhesive layer interposed between each said removable lens." From an optical standpoint, when two optical substrates are laid on one another, each substrate maintains their surface reflection characteristics because there is usually a small air gap creating an index mismatch. If the gap between the two substrates is within several wavelengths of light additional interference phenomena occur which set up selective reflection based on wavelength. In order to eliminate these reflections the adhesive must completely fill the air gap without any interruptions as each interruption, even at the micron level, will produce reflection. Therefore, "clear uninterrupted adhesive layer" not only specifies the adhesive characteristic as being "clear" (i.e., unclouded), but also specifies that the structure of the "layer" is contiguous and without interruptions, which eliminates the inter-surface reflections.

The cited and applied reference does not teach or suggest "a clear uninterrupted adhesive layer interposed between each said removable lens."

Furthermore, Claim 10 is directed to "an optical stack of laminated removable lenses for affixing to a viewing surface" and requires "each said lens having a removable tab portion on at least one end which does not have any adhesive layer on either side of said tab portion such that when the optical stack of laminated removable lenses is affixed to a viewing surface a user can quickly grasp said removable tab portion for removing the top lens of the optical stack of laminated removable lenses and expose a clean lens directly underneath said removed top lens." The Craig reference discloses a stack of lenses wherein a lens is removed from the stack and then stuck to a spectacle lens. A lens is removed from the stack when it is intended to be used. The lens removed from the stack is then affixed to the spectacle lens. The lens stack is never affixed to a viewing

surface. This is quite different from the lens stack as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the lens stack is configured to be affixed to a viewing surface. The top lens is removed when it is to be discarded. The removed lens exposes the next lens in the lens stack which is a clean lens. The claimed system allows for a user to quickly replace a viewing surface with a new, clean viewing surface as the user simply removes the top lens. In contrast, the system disclosed in the Craig reference requires the user to remove the dirty lens from the spectacle lens, remove the top lens from the lens stack which is not affixed to the spectacle lens and then position the new lens on the spectacle lens and affix the new lens on the spectacle lens.

As described above, the Craig reference does not teach or suggest all of the elements required by Claim 10. Therefore, independent Claim 10 is believed allowable.

Because independent Claim 10 is believed allowable, dependent Claim 11 is believed allowable for that reason alone. Additionally, the Craig reference does not teach or suggest "a second removable tab portion opposite the end of said removal tab portion" as required by Claim 11. Each lens in the Craig reference has a single tab. The tabs are staggered when the lenses are stacked. However, none of the lenses has a second tab as required by Claim 11.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

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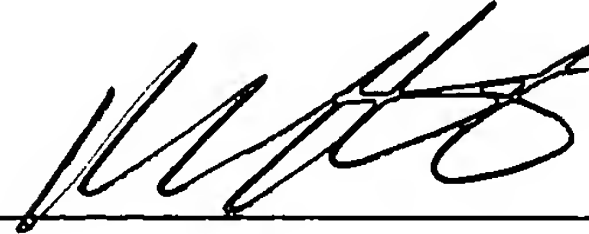
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Respectfully submitted,

Date:

4/25/03

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